IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8 line 15 as follows:

FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of a hearing instrument, according to various embodiments of the present subject matter. The hearing instrument is illustrated as a hearing aid 400, which generally corresponds to hearing aid 100 of FIG. 1. As was illustrated in FIG. 1, the hearing aid 400 illustrated in FIG. 4 includes a controller 401 and a blocking module which ~~402. The blocking module~~ is labeled in the illustration as a substitution module 402. The controller 401 is adapted to control various portions of the hearing aid, as generally represented by the dotted lines extending away from the controller 401. The controller 401 is adapted to receive a data signal trigger [[403]] which is labeled as a substitution enable signal 403, and to appropriately control the substitution module 402 via control line 404 based on the substitution enable signal ~~data signal trigger~~ 403. The substitution module 402 receives an acoustic-based signal 405, and selectively passes the acoustic-based signal 405 through to line 406. In response to a substitution enable signal ~~data signal trigger~~ 403, the controller 401 controls the substitution module 402 to block the acoustic-based signal from passing through to line 406. By blocking the acoustic-based signal from the input of the receiver in response to the substitution enable signal ~~trigger~~ 403, the present subject matter blocks data transmission interference from being converted into the output acoustic signal.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9 line 1 as follows:

FIG. 4 further illustrates an external source of data or data source ~~416~~, represented as a wireless transceiver 416 that ~~. The data source 416~~ transmits a data signal to the hearing aid 400. In various embodiments, the hearing aid includes a wireless transceiver 417 adapted to wirelessly communicate with the external transceiver 416. The illustrated transceiver 417 receives a wireless data communication 418, and presents a corresponding data signal 419 to the controller 401. It is understood that the functions of the transceiver can be performed by a transmitter and a receiver. The illustrated controller 401 includes a programming module 420 used to program the hearing aid 400. The programming module 420 is adapted to store programming instructions in a program memory 421 via data path 422.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9 line 11 as follows:

FIG. 4 also illustrates a trigger generator 423 to generate a substitution enable signal 403 corresponding to a data transmission event. In various embodiments, the trigger generator 423 includes a carrier sense module 424 used to sense a carrier wave of the data transmission and generate the substitution enable signal 403 when the data transmission carrier signal is sensed. In various embodiments, the trigger generator 423 includes a timer 425 used to anticipate a planned data transmission, and generate the substitution enable signal 403 in preparation for the planned data transmission. In various embodiments, the trigger generator 423 includes another signal input ~~means~~ 426, as may be appropriate for a particular hearing aid design, used to signal a data transmission event or occurrence. One of ordinary skill in the art will understand, upon reading and comprehending this disclosure, that the data transmission occurs over a period of time, and that the substitution enable signal can be active for the entire period of time or a portion thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 14 as follows:

The hearing aid 400 includes a waveform memory 438. Data representative of substitute waveforms are capable of being stored in the waveform memory 438. The illustrated substitute waveforms include a sampled waveform 439 and a predetermined ambient waveform 440. A waveform signal is transmitted from the ~~memory~~ waveform memory 438 via path 441 to a waveform signal processing module 442. An output of the waveform signal processing module 442 presents a processed waveform signal on line 407 to the substitution module 402. The illustrated substitution module 402 is illustrated as a switch with three inputs: a processed waveform signal (e.g. sample or ambient waveforms) input; a silence input; and a processed acoustic-based signal input. The silence input is illustrated as a disconnected receiver 436, such as the situation when neither the processed acoustic-based signal at 405 nor the processed waveform signal at 407 are passed to the receiver 436. Various embodiments include only some of the above-described options, various embodiments include all of these options, and various embodiments include different waveform substitution options.